

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Pushes Support of the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program Urging Port Community to Reduce Carbon Footprint

San Pedro – Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi today joined a growing list of environmental, healthcare and labor leaders asking for support of the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program to protect workers and cut down on pollution at the ports.

“At this critical point in California, when we see the devastating effects of climate change highlighted by droughts, extended and devastating wildfire seasons and air quality degradation, we need immediate and responsible solutions to clean up our ports,” Lieutenant John Garamendi said during a keynote speech at the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce. “We also need to take action to protect our workers in these tough economic times.”

The longtime environmentalist told the San Pedro Chamber members the Los Angeles Clean Truck Program ensures safety, efficiency and environmental clean up. He said the program is a win-win-win plan for workers, the port industry and surrounding communities.

The Port of Los Angeles is the first major seaport in the nation to reduce diesel truck emissions by banning trucks manufactured before 1989 from moving cargo between the docks. The older trucks will be replaced by cleaner, safer, more fuel efficient models. Trucking companies will enter into concession agreements with the port under the Clean Truck Program. As a result, more than 15,000 drivers now operating as independent contractors will be employed by a trucking company giving them a living wage, safe, efficient and improved working conditions.

Following his keynote address, Garamendi, who serves as a California State Lands Commissioner and has a longtime commitment to protecting the environment in California and as the former Deputy Secretary to the U.S Department of the Interior, took a tour of the Port of Los Angeles. Joined by the Port Executive Director, business, labor, and community leaders, Garamendi discussed immediate action the port must make to reduce their carbon footprint.

Additional Information:

- Ports and freight transportation will soon be the largest source of particulate matter and nitrogen oxide emissions in the state
- As part of the plan, by January 1, 2012, all trucks operating in the port complex will be required to meet 2007 federal emission standards, which will reduce port pollution by an estimated 80% in 4 years.
- The plan will produce approximately 4.2 billion in benefits to drivers, their communities and taxpayers over a 5 year period.